Southern Interior Forest Region

EXTENSION NOTE

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Update on the Forest Science Program

Introduction

This note is the first in an updated extension note series for the Southern Interior Forest Science Section. The purpose of these notes is to summarize information for field-based operational staff. This includes the Ministry of Forests Regional and District staff, licensees, and consultants. Extension notes are intended to provide concise technical information for improving forest and range management practices and assisting in solving field-based problems.

Extension notes will summarize a variety of types of Forest Science information, such as:

- project updates and reports,
- field-based consulting reports by Forest Sciences staff,
- journal publications, and
- conference and workshop proceedings.

This first note focuses on introduction to the Forest Science section, our work, extension, and how to contact us.

Forest Science Staff

The Southern Interior Forest Science Section is comprised of 16 experienced scientists and professionals located in Kamloops, Williams Lake, and Nelson. We undertake complementary job duties in consulting, research, and extension in the core disciplines of soil science, plant ecology, hydrology, geomorphology, silvicultural systems, and wildlife ecology at a regional level.

Consulting Services Provided to Districts

- Expert knowledge of technical issues in any of the core discipline topic areas — for emergencies, troubleshooting, or long-term strategies.
- Implementation assistance for the *Forest and Range Practices*

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Act (FRPA) and Regulations, including Effectiveness Evaluation and Resource Stewardship monitoring.
- Assistance with development and review of forest and range standards
- Compliance and enforcement assistance and technical advice
- Assistance and advice for review of Forest Stewardship, or other Operational Plans
- Training on soil conservation, hydrology, geomorphology, ecology, wildlife, and silvicultural systems issues.

Policy Work and Integrated Activities

Forest Science soil scientists have worked on development of the Soil Conservation component of FRPA. Forest Science is also involved in the FRPA Resource Evaluation Program, which includes Resource Stewardship monitoring. Researchers continue to be heavily involved in Land Use Planning strategies, including wildlife and biodiversity under the Cariboo-Chilcotin Land Use Plan with the Ministry of Environment. Erosion issues are being investigated jointly with Ministry of Forests and Range Engineering staff, Protection Branch and other agencies to develop an integrated approach to addressing erosion issues and public safety after wildfires.

Forest Science Research

The Forest Science Program is responsible for hundreds of research installations across the Southern Interior. These range from silviculture trials to watershed studies. Neither sufficient funds, nor staff, are available to manage and maintain a full program with all these trials, so we plan and focus our research efforts on about 40 high-priority projects. Future extension notes will provide more in-depth descriptions of projects, but for this note a general description of some of the program highlights is provided.

A priority for the Forest Science ecologists is to complete and publish an updated Ecological Field Guide for the former Kamloops Region. A future focus is refinement of the biogeoclimatic ecosystem classification (BEC) for selected subzones for the former Nelson Region. Other activities include ongoing biogeoclimatic mapping to a scale of 1:20000 in the northern part of the Region.

Our priority silvicultural system trials, include sites examining the ecology and management of dry Douglas-fir forests at Opax and Isobel, alternative silvicultural systems in caribou habitat, the Sicamous Creek project in the ESSF, aspen – pine competition in the Cariboo, repressed pine trials in the Chilcotin, and several shelterwood sites throughout the Region.

Management for mule deer winter range, maintaining habitat for caribou, and development of modelling to help identify practices that promote maintenance of desired conditions at the stand and landscape level are ongoing issues in the wildlife field.

Water and erosion projects include the Upper Penticton Creek Watershed Experiment, and monitoring of stream channel morphology at Fishtrap Creek near Kamloops and at Gold and Cotton Creeks in the East Kootenays. Other initiatives include hydrologic recovery after fires and investigating the effects of stream shade.

Work on soils includes maintenance and remeasurements for Long Term Site Productivity (LTSP) trial sites through the Southern Interior Forest Region.

Research is also contributing to development of a pine mushroom management strategy for the Chilcotin.

Forest Science Extension

Forest Science work is extended through various means, including consulting, publications, presentations, and field tours. For fiscal 2004/05, researchers authored or contributed to more than 30 publications, organized or participated in 122 extension events, and completed more than 87 extension products. In future notes there will be additional information provided on extension events and products.

Contact and Further Information

The Southern Interior Forest Science Section web pages describe program activities and profiles of staff (accessed by clicking on the staff name under the Personnel link). Please check the site prior to making general inquiries and bookmark the site for easy reference: http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/rsi/research/index.htm

If you would like to be included on a distribution list for Forest Science extension notes and other extension products or events, contact Ken Soneff, Forest Science Manager.

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